

Meeting Summary:  
Puget Sound Marine Protection Workshop  
September 17, 2012

Prepared for the Puget Sound Partnership by



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## Introduction

On September 17, 2012, The Puget Sound Partnership hosted a gathering of more than 30 Marine Protection Area (MPA) managers, agency and organizational representatives. Participants heard presentations on several reports and studies relevant to MPA's, and discussed whether the creation of a more formal network of MPA managers:

- 1) Is needed and wanted, and
- 2) Could contribute to the restoration of Puget Sound.

During the morning presentations speakers shared that at least three workgroups have proposed that a network of MPA managers could be beneficial. No specific model was recommended. Three potential benefits were identified:

- Improve coordination among managing agencies – *Recommendation of the MPA Workgroup*
- Conserve biological diversity in Puget Sound and support ecosystem health – *from the 2008 Puget Sound Action Agenda*
- Protect significant amounts of rockfish stocks and habitat – *from the 2011 Puget Sound Rockfish Conservation Plan*

This report contains the results of the afternoon session, when participants were asked to imagine what a successful network would look like by working together to answer the question:

**What are the features of a successful Puget Sound MPA network – for you, for your protected area, for Puget Sound?**

## Summary of responses

While some members recognized there could be benefits, the group recommended that some exploratory work is needed before they can agree that finite resources should be devoted to the creation of a network. While it was made clear that no funds or lead agency have been designated to develop and host a network, the group requested that the Puget Sound Partnership lead a collaborative process to:

1. Assess the need and match the establishment of an MPA network to Puget Sound conservation priorities
2. Establish commonly agreed upon definitions of 1) a network, 2) marine protection areas, and 3) a common science foundation that includes social-ecological factors
3. Assure that the exploratory process is inclusive of MPA managers – tribal and nontribal
4. Engage participants and ask for help. Consider forming a subset of participants in a workgroup to accomplish steps 1-3. Make requests for specific expertise needed to bring the answers back to the group.

Once the answers to the above questions have been explored, the group will be asked again to decide:

### **Do we need a network?**

If the answer is yes, the following features would contribute to its success.

1. Obtain a clear mandate with adequate funding and a designated lead or host agency. Some felt that this might require legislative action.
2. Identify goals and objectives that are widely supported.
3. Identify measures of success and monitor progress to assure that the network is contributing to the health of Puget Sound.

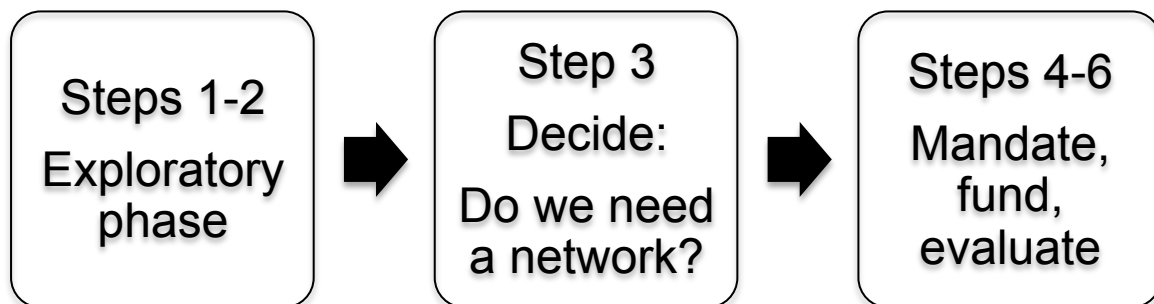
4. Consider whether a more narrowly defined network – say, to protect a single species like rockfish – may be the most viable, measurable and successful.

#### **Additional advice**

- The best way to communicate with the group is Email. A webinar could be used to present the results of Steps 1-3 above. Another in-person meeting may not be needed.
- Send the group something specific to react to, even if it's just a straw dog that they can tear apart and rebuild.
- Be attentive to process. There is a breadth of views on this question and most participants don't want to short change the process of engaging all viewpoints.
- Be sure to consider whether there is a better use of resources – funds for Puget Sound are limited.
- Be aware of scoping. Take into consideration the *Washington MPA Protection Gap Analysis* report but also consider the impact on communities, and how to engage communities in the discussion.
- Look at the Puget Sound Partnership's "Pressures and Opportunities." Which can be most effectively addressed by MPA's?
- Link this work to the Action Agenda. What is the niche that this is addressing?

#### **Whole Group Card Sort Exercise**

The group generated suggestions through a card sorting exercise. It is documented in detail below as a six-step process.



#### **Step 1 – Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)**

- Do a needs assessment
- Match MPA need to conservation priorities

#### **Step 2 – PSP**

- Clear understanding of a network
- Define network
- Define MPA
- Common science foundation – inclusive of social ecological

**While doing Steps 1 & 2**

- Inclusive of all MPA's in networking
- Meaningful collaborative process – tribal and nontribal
- Public buy in (outreach)
- Focus on collaboration, coordination
- Knowledge sharing mechanism
- Central location for meetings

**Step 3 – Then Decide: do we need a network? If yes...****Step 4 – Establish mandate & host**

- Clear mandate
- Philosopher King (host)
- Adequate funding source

**Step 5 – Goals, objectives, purpose**

- Identify goals
- Clearly defined network goals/objectives
- Develop common goals – widely supported
- Individual MPA purposes tied to Network goals

**Step 6 – Measure/Evaluate**

1. Identify measures of success
2. How do we use the MPA tool to help restore Puget Sound?
3. Coordinated/standardized monitoring
4. Network-wide monitoring
5. Are they meeting goals, intents?
6. Assessment guidance – Kyle
7. Where are the gaps?

Lynne Barre, marine biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, offered the following questions for analysis during the exploratory phase.

Which pressures/conservation concerns can be effectively addressed with MPA's or an MPA network. (Species, habitat threats)

What is high priority – or pressure – in the Action Agenda?

Are existing MPA's adequately addressing high priority issues?

Would creating an MPA network better address these high priority issues/opportunities and contribute to the health of Puget Sound? For example:

- If the purpose of a network is to achieve better coordination then it needs X
- If the purpose of a network is to achieve ecosystem function benefits, then it needs Y

<b>Name</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
Michael	Grilliot	State	DNR	Aquatic Reserves Program Specialist
<b>Kyle</b>	<b>Murphy</b>	State	DNR	Aquatic Reserves Program Manager
Brian	Lynn	State	ECY	Coastal/Shorelands Section Manager
Carrie	Byron	Federal	EPA	Puget Sound Team
Ian	Jefferds	Local	Island County MRC	Chair
Alan	Chapman	Tribal	Lummi Tribe	Natural Resources
<b>Lynne</b>	<b>Barre</b>	Federal	NOAA	Marine Biologist
<b>Dan</b>	<b>Tonnes</b>	Federal	NOAA	Marine Biologist
Bruce	Jones	Tribal	NWIFC	SSHAP Section Manager
Marilu	Koschak	Tribal	NWIFC	Mid-South Sound Biologist
Lawrence	Sullivan	Tribal	NWIFC	Puget Sound Policy Analyst
<b>Ken</b>	<b>Currens</b>	Tribal	NWIFC/PSP	Hatchery Genetics Manager/Former Science Director
Roma	Call	Tribal	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Environmental Coordinator
Josh	Wisniewski	Tribal	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Anthropologist
Tracy	Collier	State	PSP	Science Director
<b>Todd</b>	<b>Hass</b>	State	PSP	Marine and Nearshore Special Projects
Katharine	Wellman	State/University	PSP Science Panel/UW	
Patrick	Christie	University	PSP Social Science Workgroup	
Constanc e	Sullivan	Student	PSP/Washington Sea Grant	2013 Hershman Marine Policy Fellow
Linda	Lyshall	Local	San Juan MRC/Marine Stewardship Area	
Kathleen	Herrmann	Local	Snohomish MRC/Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area	Snohomish County MRC Lead Staff
Paul	Dye	NGO	TNC	Director of Marine Conservation

Phil	Green	NGO	TNC	Manager - Yellow and Low Islands
Kat	Morgan	NGO	TNC	Manager - Port Susan Bay Preserve
Daryl	Williams	Tribal	Tulalip Tribes	Environmental Liaison
Kevin	Ryan	Federal	USFWS	Project Leader - Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex
<b>Randy</b>	<b>Kline</b>	State	Washington Parks and Recreation	Environmental Program Manager
<b>Allison</b>	<b>Osterberg</b>	State	Washington Sea Grant/PSP	Hershman Marine Policy Fellow
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Dayv	Lowry	State	WDFW	Research Scientist
Theresa	Tsou	State	WDFW	Research Scientist